

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

- The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed towards an alarm system for an aircraft door. The closest prior art, Ortolano et al. (USPN 5,521,584), shows a similar system, in which, an apparatus for detecting ice includes a heat flow sensor which senses the rate of flow of heat through a member. At the same time, the temperature differential across the member is determined. Based on the temperature differential, it is possible to calculate a theoretical heat flow rate based on the assumption that there is no ice on the member. If ice is present on the surface of the member, the actual heat flow rate will be significantly less than the calculated or theoretical heat flow rate. It is contemplated that the apparatus and method of this invention will be particularly useful in conjunction with the detecting of the presence of ice on a wing of an aircraft. However, Ortolano et al. fail to address: "for a sensor for sensing when a door operating handle is about to be gripped by an operator, an aural alarm associated with the sensor and operable to sound when the sensor detects that the handle is about to be gripped, and means for automatically arming at least the sensor or the aural alarm when an emergency evacuation slide of the aircraft door is armed so as to

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be released if the air craft door is opened". These distinct features have been added to the sole independent claim and renders it allowable.

- Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amir Alavi whose telephone number is 571-272-7386. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Friday. 8:30 am thru 5:00pm.
- If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vikram Bali can be reached on 571-272-7415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
- Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

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- Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Amir Alavi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624
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